

**U16c            Are Quasars Lensed by Quasars?**

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There are at least four close pairs of bright quasars with discordant redshifts and separations less than 5 arcsec. Given the observed surface density of quasars such a high frequency of chance occurrences of unrelated close doubles is very improbable (Burbidge, Hoyle and Schneider; 1996, preprint Astro-Ph/9601031). But these authors show that gravitational lensing of faint background QSOs by the foreground quasar might account for the pair statistics. If these four discordant-redshift pairs are indeed examples of gravitational lensing by quasars, then the fact that a high percentage of all known close QSO pairs are discordant-redshift doubles means that a large fraction of all known high redshift galaxy-mass gravitational lenses must contain quasars. The cosmic density of such QSO lenses would then be  $\sim 0.01$  the closure density.